

VIRGINIA ARGUS.

XVIIIth Year.]

A FREE PRESS MAINTAINS THE SOVEREIGNTY OF THE PEOPLE.

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TUESDAY, MAY 29, 1810.

[12 1-2 Cents Single]

Richmond Price Current.

| | CASH. | D. C. |
|--------------------|--------|-------|
| Tobacco, | 5 00 | |
| Wheat, new, | 1 25 | |
| Flour, super-fine, | 7 00 | |
| Flour, fine, | 6 50 | |
| Corn, | 3 00 | |
| Lamb, per ton, | 270 00 | |
| Iron, | 110 00 | |
| Bacon, | 00 10 | |
| Whisky, | 00 70 | |

By Authority.

AN ACT

Making further appropriations for completing the Capitol and for other purposes.

BE it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America, in Congress assembled, That in addition to the appropriations heretofore made, the following sums of money be, and the same are hereby appropriated, to be applied under the direction of the President of the United States, to the purposes hereinafter mentioned, that is to say:

For sculpture, and warming and ventilating the chamber of the House of Representatives, seven thousand five hundred dollars;

For defraying the expense of completing the court room, and the offices of the judiciary on the east side, completing the Senate chamber and stopping the leaks in the roof of the north wing of the Capitol, twenty thousand dollars;

For repairs to the President's house and offices, five thousand dollars.

Sec. 2. And be it further enacted, That it be the duty of the Superintendent of the city of Washington, prior to any further advances of money being made, to call for all claims on account of materials furnished or work done in the Public Buildings in order that the same may be liquidated and paid.

Sec. 3. And be it further enacted, That the several sums of money hereby appropriated, shall be paid out of any money in the treasury not otherwise appropriated.

J. B. VARNUM,

Speaker of the House of Representatives.

JOHN GAILLARD,

President of the Senate, pro-tempore.

May 1, 1810.

Approved,

JAMES MADISON.

AN ACT

Allowing compensation to Robert Robinson.

BE it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America, in Congress assembled, That there shall be paid out of the Treasury of the United States, out of any monies therein, not otherwise appropriated, the sum of five hundred dollars to Robert Robinson, in full compensation for his extra services as clerk to the board of commissioners at Kaskaskia, and as interpreter and transcriber of the different languages, and as agent to the board, and for conveying the report of the commissioners to the seat of the government of the United States.

J. B. VARNUM,

Speaker of the House of Representatives.

JOHN GAILLARD,

President of the Senate, pro-tempore.

May 1, 1810.

Approved,

JAMES MADISON.

AN ACT

Confirming the decisions of the commissioners in favor of the claimants of land in the district of Kaskaskia.

BE it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America, in Congress assembled, That all the decisions

made by the commissioners appointed for the purpose of examining the claims of persons claiming lands in the district of Kaskaskia, in favor of such claimants as entered in the transcript of decisions, bearing date the thirty-first day of December, eighteen hundred and nine, which have been transmitted by the said commissioners to the Secretary of the Treasury according to law, be and the same are hereby confirmed.

J. B. VARNUM,

Speaker of the House of Representatives.

JOHN GAILLARD,

President of the Senate, pro-tempore.

May 1, 1810.

Approved,

JAMES MADISON.

AN ACT

For the relief of Arthur St. Clair.

BE it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America, in Congress assembled, That the President of the United States be, and he hereby is authorized to cause to be paid out of any monies which may be in the treasury not otherwise appropriated, the sum of two thousand dollars to Arthur St. Clair, who served in the army of the United States throughout the revolutionary war: Provided, the said Arthur St. Clair shall, previous to the receipt of the said sum of money, sign a release of all claim for further remuneration from the government for services rendered, or money advanced by him during the revolutionary war.

J. B. VARNUM

Speaker of the House of Representatives.

JOHN GAILLARD,

President of the Senate, pro-tempore.

May 1, 1810.

Approved,

JAMES MADISON.

AN ACT

For the relief of P. C. L'Enfant.

BE it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America, in Congress assembled, That the Secretary of the treasury be authorized and directed to pay P. C. L'Enfant, out of any money in the treasury not otherwise appropriated, the sum of six hundred and sixty-six dollars and two thirds with legal interest from the first day of March one thousand seven hundred and ninety-two as a compensation for his services in laying out the plan of the City of Washington.

J. B. VARNUM,

Speaker of the House of Representatives.

JOHN GAILLARD,

President of the Senate, pro-tempore.

May 1, 1810.

Approved,

JAMES MADISON.

AN ACT

For the relief of William W. Weymouth and Joseph P. Weeks.

BE it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America, in Congress assembled, That the penalty incurred some time in the month of March last by William W. Weymouth, master of the schooner Weymouth, for not complying with the injunctions of the ninth section of the act entitled, "An act to prohibit the importation of slaves into any port or place within the jurisdiction of the United States from and after the first day of January, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and eight," previous to his leaving the port of New York with a fugitive slave on board, named Oliver, belonging to the estate of James Redford, deceased, late of Richmond in the state of Virginia, be and the same is hereby remitted; any law or laws to the contrary notwithstanding.

Sec. 2. And be it further enacted, That the penalty incurred some time in the month of July last by Joseph P. Weeks master of the schooner Ceres and also the forfeiture of said schooner

incurred for not complying with the injunctions of the said ninth section of said act, previous to his leaving the port of New York with a fugitive slave on board, named Lige, belonging to Isaac Entwistle of Alexandria in the district of Columbia, be and the same are also hereby remitted.

J. B. VARNUM,

Speaker of the House of Representatives.

JOHN GAILLARD,

President of the Senate, pro-tempore.

May 1, 1810.

Approved,

JAMES MADISON.

WASHINGTON CITY, May 23

We understand, on the authority of a letter from Mr Forbes, Consul of the United States at Hamburg, written at Copenhagen on the 3d of March last, "that by a royal order, privateering was immediately to be commenced." There is therefore reason to fear that the trade of the U. States to the north of Europe will have been put in as perilous a situation as that to the other parts of the Continent.

Nat. Int.

The extraordinary delay of the Marquis Wellesley in answering the letter of Mr Pinkney proves the British ministry to have been governed by events in their occurrence posterior to the dismissal of Mr. Jackson. Had they, as they should have been, exclusively influenced by that act, with the circumstances that led to it, no reason for delay could have existed. The case was too plain and isolated to embarrass the most ordinary judgment. The facts were amply stated by both parties. The wide field of an ecedent negotiation on the complicated affairs of the two nations in this instance presented no obstacle, and Mr Jackson was at least fully heard as our government. The requisitions on our part were few and simple, and called for dispatch. In such a state of things the reflection of a day was as good as that of a month, and the judgement must have been as ripe for decision as it ever could be. A prompt compliance with our requests would have been no less honorable to the British government, than promotive of the best interests of the nation it represented. It would have revived the waning good will of the two nations, and produced, certainly in this country, a zealous disposition to yield much for the sake of an entire restoration of harmony. On the other hand, that government must have been sensible that a reluctant and tardy acquiescence in our demands, would assume more the air of policy than of justice, of compulsion than of a spontaneous disposition to do what was right. Such must have been the feeling of the British government had it considered our requisitions reasonable. On the contrary, had it viewed them as unreasonable the obligation was equally strong to give an immediate answer, that we might be enabled to form an unambiguous estimate of its disposition, and pursue measures dictated by the actual state of things, instead of being bewildered in the inextricable mazes of doubt and mystery. The demand made by us, indeed, so loudly called for a speedy decision, that the annals of diplomacy may be ransacked in vain without finding an analogous case attended with such delay, even in those dark periods when force was the acknowledged arbiter between nations. At this day such a delay would not have been tolerated by any European government, which would, long before it elapsed, have done itself justice by dismissing the offending minister. England herself would most unquestionably have pursued this course.

The delay, then, was unequivocally the result of circumstances foreign from the original case. These were, either—

1. The existing state of parties in England;

2. The political divisions among us;

3. The line of policy of France towards us;

Separately, or collectively, these causes dictated the stately and un-

sured answer of the Marquis Wellesley.

1. We know that the present English ministry tottered to dissolution at the very moment it drew its first breath, and that it has ever since been exposed to the severest paroxysms, of which the Parliament has been the theatre. In this state of mixed infancy and dotage, it was all important, to avoid anything like a rupture with America. In the midst of a wide-spread defeat and discomfiture of the British arms, when every ray of hope was quenched in the fatal bogs of Walcheren, and the right arm of British power paralysed by the rapid disappearance of specie and the consequent depreciation of the paper currency, when, added to all this, so great was the demand for grain, as to have rendered necessary the licensing of vessels trading to France, which a one time amounted to above five hundred lying in the Thames, it was not politic to add to her enemies or increase her difficulties. The non-intercourse with her was still in, at least nominal, existence, and might be enforced; at any rate, the apprehension of such an event might have thrown a weight into the adverse scale, which added to that already in it, might have been fatal to the reigning party. Hence the importance of assuming the air of great candor, and of a resolute spirit of conciliation towards this country, a spirit that would, in the activity of its zeal, extract good from evil. In the mean time, the session of Parliament was passing away, the ministry were pluming themselves on the amicable relations with this country and gaining no mean accession of strength from the reputation; Mr Pinkney was, with suspicious, and even injudicious, eagerness, panegyrising the ministry, and, perhaps, more than all, the impression was sent across the channel that America and England were soon to be the best friends, thus awaking the jealousy, if not active hostility of France towards us, for causes which had no existence. Even on the 5th of April, twenty-two days after the delivery of Lord Wellesley's answer, we find the British prints, ministerial as well as others, exulting in the prospect of an accommodation and even treaty between the two nations; nay, the treaty itself is said to have gone on. In this expectation the British parliament will in all probability ere this have adjourned, and under the same expectation the good people of England, in all likelihood, will for months to come, be gaping for the returned treaty,—an expectation which will gain strength from the removal, instead of enforcement, of our non-intercourse, which they will not fail to ascribe to the confidential good understanding between the respective governments.

2. Our political divisions have eminently fostered, if not imperatively dictated, the conduct of Britain towards us. So long as we presented a united front, while the spirit of faction slept or feared to raise its head, so long as the loud burst of indignation resounded through the country, and so long as the representatives of the people appeared to uphold, with unhesitating resolution the course taken by the Executive, the British government exhibited every disposition to do us full justice, not merely in this case, but in all others. Attend to dates and contemporaneous events & mark the effects!

Mr Pinkney received his despatches on the 27th of November, and on the Saturday following had a conference with the Marquis Wellesley, in the course of which he explained to him fully the grounds upon which he "was instructed to request Mr Jackson's immediate recall." Lord Wellesley's reception "was frank and friendly;" and he left him "with a persuasion that we should have no cause to be dissatisfied with the final course of his government." At this time we appeared to be united. Most of the federal presses espoused the

"It is generally believed," says the Courier of March 28, fourteen days subsequent to the date of the Marquis of Wellesley's answer—"that a project of an arrangement between this country and the U. S. has been agreed on with Mr Pinkney, and that it has gone on to America in the hands of Adams."

side of the government. Only two or three formed an exception to this honorable spirit. This state of things remained unaltered until more than a month after the meeting of Congress, when the proceedings in the Senate held out the flattering prospect of an almost unanimous support of the President by both Houses; and, under this impression Mr Pinkney on the 2d of January presented his letter to Lord Wellesley, whose immediate answer was expected. Had the answer been promptly made, there is the strongest reason to believe that its tenor would have been very different from that given ten weeks afterwards; it is probable, that it would have officially admitted Mr. Jackson to have been in the wrong, announced his immediate recall, and named a successor of rank & talents actually substituted in his stead; connected with the expression of an ardent hope that all existing differences might be settled without delay by Lord Wellesley and Mr. Pinkney, under the assurance of the former that he was not wedded to any set of men or to any particular doctrines.

But, unfortunately, while the pen of the noble Marquis was probably engaged in drawing up such a note, intelligence was quickly conveyed across the Atlantic, that chilled the warm current that flowed fresh from his heart, and afterwards gave it a contrary direction. Party had again raised her hydra head in this country, and through the channels of communication with the British government, held out the hope, that she would be able to carry every thing before her.

Averse to yielding more than was requisite to gaining their ends, the ministry hesitated to take any decisive steps, resolving in the interim to watch events. This indecision, no doubt, emboldened the enemies of this country, as well in as out of the cabinet. For if the ends of Britain were to be attained, in consequence of our divisions, without making any concessions on her part, or abandoning the ground she had taken, it is easy to calculate the odium that would have been cast upon men, who had resolutely formed a treaty of reciprocal stipulations, involving important sacrifices, which, however just, could not fail at once to shock powerful prejudices and to wound the national sensibility. This pause proved fatal; every arrival from this country painted in glowing, and probably exaggerated colors, our divisions, and the increasing strength of the opposition, until the conviction was produced that not only no effectual measures would be taken to resist the aggressions on our maritime rights, but that even the existing measures, inadequate as they were, would most probably be abandoned. Such, we have no doubt, was the purport, & such the effect of the intelligence sent from this country about the beginning of February.

3. Lastly, the line of policy pursued by France towards us may have had no inconsiderable influence on the conduct of the British government. The steady object of each of these powers is to embroil us with the other. If, consequently, we would agree to make war upon France, England would revoke her orders in council; or, if we would make war upon England, France would rescind her edicts. As this appears to be the end at which they aim, so nothing short of it will

† Take the following extract from a London print published in March, as an evidence of the effect of our divisions on the public sentiment in England.

"American papers arrived in town yesterday.

"The question on the comparative disadvantages of war with Great Britain and France, has occasioned much discussion in Congress, and indeed throughout the U. States; and we are happy to find a more just disposition to appreciate the consequences of a war with this country, than has hitherto been displayed in America, begins to be prevalent. The resolutions of the local legislature of Massachusetts, on the dismissal of Mr Jackson, refer to this subject, and cannot fail, we should hope, to make a due impression on every sober minded man in the United States."